

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 115659  
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGRE-00  
AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 EPG-02 COME-00  
DLOS-09 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05  
FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01  
PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /135 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/AFN:TSWILKINSON:PG  
APPROVED BY NEA:NAVELIOTES  
NEA/AMB MULCAHY

-----200724Z 097812 /21

P 200542Z MAY 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA PRIORITY  
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY  
CINCUSNAVEUR  
COMSIXTHFLT  
EUCOM  
SECDEF  
USDOCOSOUTH

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 115659

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELOS, EPOL, ENRG, TS, LY, IT

SUBJECT: TUNISIAN-LIBYAN RELATIONS: VELIOTES-HEDDA  
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 115659

MEETING ON MAY 18

REF: A. STATE 109446 B. TUNIS 3429

1. HEDDA CALLED ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY VELIOTES AND  
AMBASSADOR MULCAHY TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON OUR EFFORTS TO  
DISSUADE READING AND BATES FROM CARRYING OUT ITS AGREEMENT

TO DRILL FOR LIBYANS IN DISPUTED ZONE.

2. AFTER VELIOTES HAD BRIEFED HEDDA ABOUT LEGAL ADVISER HANSELL'S DISCUSSION WITH READING AND BATES ALONG LINES REF A, HEDDA REPORTED THAT TUNISIAN DEFENSE MINISTER FARHAT HAD STATED PUBLICLY THAT WITHDRAWAL OF SCARABEO IV WAS A LIBYAN DECISION. VELIOTES OBSERVED THAT OUR INFORMATION SUGGESTED THAT LIBYANS HAD IN FACT BEEN ANGERED BY AN ITALIAN DECISION TO WITHDRAW RIG, BUT TUNISIANS HAD WISELY PUT BEST FACE ON THE DECISION, AND WE COULD NOW HOPE THAT LIBYANS WOULD REACT POSITIVELY (AS APPEARS FROM LATEST INFORMATION TO HAVE HAPPENED).

3. ON U.S. FIRM'S PLANS, HEDDA SAID IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN TO TUNISIAN PUBLIC THAT U.S. CANNOT PREVENT ITS OWN NATIONALS FROM DRILLING IN DISPUTED ZONE. ADDING TO CONFUSION ABOUT STATUS OF CONTRACT, HEDDA SAID THAT HE HAD IT FROM TUNIS THAT U.S. FIRM HAD SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WITH LIBYANS ON MAY 10. VELIOTES SAID THAT WE HAVE CONFLICTING REPORTS ABOUT CONTRACT, BUT SUGGESTED CONTINUED ATTEMPTS TO CLARIFY ITALIAN ROLE, IN THE EVENT THAT SOLE OR PRIME CONTRACT IS BETWEEN READING AND BATES AND ENI.

4. VELIOTES ALSO USED OCCASION TO BRIEF HEDDA ON U.S. INTELLIGENCE REPORT ON LIBYA, AS PROVIDED EMBASSY TUNIS IN SEPTEL.

5. FOR VALETTA: RE REF B, WE HAVE NO MEANS OF TRACKING U.S. SHIP EXCEPT WHEN IT ARRIVES IN VALETTA, WHERE IT IS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 115659

DUE ON MAY 23. REQUEST THAT EMBASSY REPORT ARRIVAL AND ANY SUBSEQUENT DEPARTURE, IF POSSIBLE.

CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009